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The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign

111 Northwood Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8HW, UK
Telephone 081 771 2904, Fax 081 653 0322

Honorary President:
Lord Avebury
Honorary Treasurer:
Tom Soper
Organising Secretary:
Carmel Budiardjo

28 June 1991

Mr Joao Deus Pinheiro,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Portuguese Republic

Fax no: 010 351 1 671518

Dear Mr Pinheiro,

This organisation has just obtained a copy of the Final Declaration adopted at the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the European ~~Committee~~ and the Association of South East Asian Nations, held in Luxembourg on 30 and 31 May 1991.

It came as a great shock to discover that the Declaration makes no reference at all to the human rights situation in East Timor whereas the situation there continues to be of grave concern. In fact, the Declaration gives the impression that the human rights situation in Asia is developing along positive lines. Portugal has always made a point of insisting on every possible forum that due attention be paid to the situation in East Timor. For this reason, we see the Declaration as a setback. With Portugal becoming a member of the Troika which governs EC affairs from 1 July, in advance of taking over the Presidency on 1 January 1992, we do urge you to make sure that East Timor receives due attention on EC councils.

We would also like to draw your attention to the horrifying atrocities being perpetrated by the Indonesian military authorities in Aceh, North Sumatra. We earnestly ask you to ensure that Portuguese representatives raise this issue at the EC and on occasions when meetings are held with ASEAN representatives.

Yours sincerely,

Sent as corrected

Carmel Budiardjo

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This was faxed to USA &
sent to Pinheiro as requested
Was it reported in the press?

Ben

with compliments